

## Week 6 - Grammar

L.O. To understand the terms 'active voice' and 'passive voice'.

- What does the active and passive voice mean?

### Passive and Active Voice: The Rules

To be able to understand passive and active voice, you need to have a good understanding of **subjects**, **verbs** and **objects** within sentences.

The **bunny** **appeared** from the **hat**.

The <b>subject</b> is who or what we are talking about in the sentence, i.e. the <b>bunny</b> is what we are talking about.	The <b>verb</b> is the doing word ( <b>appeared</b> ).	The <b>object</b> is the thing the verb is working on or acting upon. In this case, the <b>hat</b> .
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*The active and passive voice are two ways of giving the same information.*

*The cat scratched the boy.*

*This sentence uses the active voice.*

*The cat does the action.*

*The boy was scratched by the cat.*

*This sentence uses the passive voice.*

*The boy had the action done to him.*

Therefore...

*The passive voice: the action is done to them.*


*The active voice: the subject is doing the action.*

If you have access to the internet, look at the following clip.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQNvhUrAn7o&safe=active>

**Task 1** - Time for you to have a go. Active or passive?

A)


The **family** boarded the **plane**.




The **boy** ate the **broccoli**.

B)

The **plane** was boarded by the **family**.

<p>The <b>plane</b> is now the subject but is receiving the action.</p> 	<p>The <b>verb 'boarded'</b> now comes after a past tense form of the auxiliary verb 'to be', e.g. <b>was</b> or <b>were</b>.</p>	<p>The <b>family</b> are still performing the verb but the preposition word 'by' is added to show this.</p>
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C)



The **broccoli** was eaten by the **boy**.

<p>The <b>broccoli</b> is now the subject but is receiving the action.</p>	<p>The <b>verb 'was'</b> is used again but this time 'ate' is changed to the past participle '<b>eaten</b>'.</p>	<p>The <b>boy</b> is still performing the verb but the preposition word 'by' is added to show this.</p>
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**Knowledge:** Sometimes passive sentences don't say who or what is doing the action.

## Passive Voice: The Tricky Bit

Some **passive** sentences **don't say who or what is doing the action** of the **verb** to the **subject**. The **object** is missing but the sentence still makes sense.

The **motorcycle** was ridden.



The **subject** is the motorcycle.

The **verb** was done to the subject but we don't know by whom or what.



**It** was stolen.

The **subject** is 'it' – a pronoun.

Again the **verb** was done to the subject but we don't know by whom or what.

## Task 2

### Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 1

Which sentence is written in the active voice?

The damage was caused by the hurricane.

The cubs were protected by the lioness.

The sports car was driven by the World Champion.

Joseph practised his handballs before the grand final.

### Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 2

Underline the objects in these active sentences:

Isabelle threw a ball into the air.

In the playground, the boy chased the girl.

I carefully carried the eggs.

### Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 3

Rewrite the sentence below so that it is written in the passive voice. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The lazy man ignored the alarm clock.

## Task 3 - main activity (read the text before completing questions).

### Chapter 9

"Let me get this straight," said Mrs Rose doubtfully. "A cat spoke to you?"

"Yep!" AJ replied simply.

"You were spoken to by a cat! Is that what you're saying?" she said rephrasing the question as if that would produce a different answer.

"Lucifer spoke to me, yes, Mrs Rose," AJ confirmed.

"He can't have done!" she said realistically. "Cats don't speak!"

Amber believed AJ. "What did he say to you?" she asked.

"Children must not touch cats!" AJ said precisely.

"Cats must not be touched by children!" repeated Mrs Rose incredulously, using the passive voice for added effect.

"Are you sure that's what he said?" Amber asked.

"Then he told me to clear off, but in a very rude way," AJ recalled miserably.

"It's just a cat, Aubrey," said Mrs Rose. "You can't have been told to clear off by a cat. Now, I don't want to hear any more about it." Although she was dismissive of AJ's claims, Amber realised that she too was unsettled by the incident.

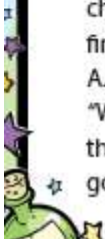
The tools having been put away, and their hands washed, the two children headed back to their class. When they entered the classroom they were surprised to find that the class was being taught by Miss Vile.

"Miss Philips has had to leave our school," explained Miss Vile.

"I shall be teaching you until a replacement teacher can be found." The children moaned. They had all liked Miss Philips. It was a shock to find out that she had left so unexpectedly.

She had taught at St Augustine's for over ten years so it was odd that she would leave so suddenly and without saying goodbye to the children. "Take out your silent reading books," instructed Miss Vile. "I want to see what nonsense you children are reading." She then began to prowl around the tables examining what each child was reading. She didn't seem to approve of any of the books that the children had chosen. She criticised the books for being poorly written, or unrealistic or even childish. She sent some of the children to the library to find more appropriate books. She then stood behind

AJ. He was reading an amusing story about a fox and its exploits to outwit three farmers. "What twaddle is this?" she cried. "A talking fox! Children of your age should not be filling their heads with such drivel. We all know very well that animals can't talk. Aubrey Jones, go and wait outside my office. I need a word with you."



The active and passive voice are two ways of giving the same information.

The cat scratched the boy. This sentence uses the active voice. The cat does the action.

The boy was scratched by the cat. This sentence uses the passive voice. The boy had the action done to him.



Write whether each sentence is active (A) or passive (P).

- 1 The cat spoke to AJ. ....
- 2 The tools were put away by the children. ....
- 3 The children left the door open. ....
- 4 AJ was spoken to by the cat. ....
- 5 The children put away the tools. ....
- 6 The door had been left open by the children. ....

Rewrite these active sentences using the passive voice.

- 7 They washed their hands with soap.

.....

- 8 Miss Vile was teaching the class.

.....

- 9 All the children liked Miss Philips.

.....

Write these sentences using the active voice:

- 10 The books were inspected by Miss Vile.

.....

- 11 AJ had been sent to the office by Miss Vile.

.....

## Answers - Task 1

A)

### Active Voice: The Rules

In English, **active sentences** are used much **more often** than passive sentences. In active sentences, **the subject performs the action** (the verb) **to the object**.

The **family** boarded the **plane**.




 The **boy** ate the **broccoli**.

B)

### Passive Voice: The Rules

In passive sentences, the word order is reversed. The **subject** receives the **action** and the **object** is performing it.


The **plane** **was boarded** by the **family**.

<p>The <b>plane</b> is now the subject but is receiving the action.</p> 	<p>The verb '<b>boarded</b>' now comes after a past tense form of the auxiliary verb 'to be', e.g. <b>was</b> or <b>were</b>.</p>	<p>The <b>family</b> are still performing the verb but the preposition word '<b>by</b>' is added to show this.</p>
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C)

### Passive Voice: The Rules

The same happens in this passive sentence. The **subject** receives the **action** and the **object** is performing it.



The **broccoli** was eaten by the **boy**.

The <b>broccoli</b> is now the subject but is receiving the action.	The verb ' <b>was</b> ' is used again but this time 'ate' is changed to the past participle ' <b>eaten</b> '.	The <b>boy</b> is still performing the verb but the preposition word 'by' is added to show this.
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## Task 2

### Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 1

Which sentence is written in the active voice?

The damage was caused by the hurricane.

The cubs were protected by the lioness.

The sports car was driven by the World Champion.

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### Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 2

Underline the objects in these active sentences:

Isabelle threw a ball into the air.

In the playground, the boy chased the girl.

I carefully carried the eggs.

Joseph practiced his handballs before the grand final.

### Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 3

Rewrite the sentence below so that it is written in the passive voice. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The lazy man ignored the alarm clock.

The alarm clock was ignored by the lazy man.

## Task 3 Main activity

- The cat spoke to AJ. **Active**  
AJ was spoken to by the cat. **Passive**  
The tools were put away by the children. **Passive**  
The children put away the tools. **Active**  
The children left the door open. **Active**  
The door had been left open by the children. **Passive**
- Their hands were washed with soap.  
The class was being taught by Miss Vile.  
Miss Philips was liked by all the children.  
Their books were inspected by Miss Vile.

